IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum is against the proposal to merge India Meters Ltd. with another unit.

(c) The matter regarding the merger will be decided by the Department of Company Affairs who will take into account all aspects of the case before arriving at a decision.

Request of Assam Government for Enhanced Oil Royalty

2356. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has been requesting the Central Government to increase the rate of Oil royalty by Rs. 150·00 per MT ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demand of Assam Government is less than one third of the demand of the Government of Gujarat ; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat and Government of Assam have demanded increases in the rate of royalty on crude oil production from Rs. 192·00 per MT to Rs. 683·50 and Rs. 340·00 per MT respectively. The next review of the rate of royalty would take into account all relevant factors, including the views of the concerned State Governments.

LPG agencies and Petrol pump Dealerships in Uttar Pradesh

2357. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of L.P. gas agencies and petrol pump dealerships allotted during 1988 in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) when these agencies and petrol pump dealerships were advertised and how much time was taken in the final selection ; and

(c) what are the names of persons to whom gas agencies and petrol pump dealerships were given in 1988 in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) During the calendar year 1988, 28 LPG distributorships and 47 Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) Dealerships were allotted in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The required information is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 145].

Subsidy on LPG Cylinders

2358. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of subsidy given by Government on LPG cylinders supplied to the consumers and its percentage in relation to the cost of the LPG cylinder ; and

(b) what is the total amount of subsidy given by Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The amount of subsidy on LPG cylinders